(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ग) क्या विश्वव्यापी पर्यावरणीय सुविधाओं का समर्थन करने, उनका उचित विकास तथा पुनर्गठन करने के लिये एक अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय आयोग स्थापित किये जाने के संबंध में सितम्बर, 1992 में नई दिल्ली में कोई वार्ता हुई थी ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमलनाथ) : (क) और (ख) : जापान ने विदेशी आर्थिक सहयोग निधि (ओ.ई.सी.एफ.) के तहत भारत को इंदिरा गांधी नहर के किनारे वनीकरण और चरागाह विकास से संबंधित परियोजनाओं के लिये 7869 मिलियन येन की और राजस्थान राज्य में अरावली की पहाड़ियों के वनीकरण की परियोजना के लिये 8095 मिलियन येन की सहायता प्रदान की है । इसके अलावा, यमुना कार्य योजना के लिये 17.77 बिलियन येन की सहायता देने का वचन दिया है ।

(ग) और (घ) सितम्बर, 1992 के दौरान जापान के राज्य मंत्री और पर्यावरण एजेंसी के महानिदेशक की भारत यात्रा के दौरान भारत और जापान के बीच पर्यावरण और वानिकी क्षेत्रों में द्विपक्षीय मामलों पर और जून, 1992 के दौरान रियो डि जैनेरो (ब्राजील) में आयोजित संयुक्त राष्ट्र पर्यावरण एवं विकास सम्मेलन में लिये निर्णयों पर अनुवर्ती कार्रवाई करने के लिये संयुक्त राष्ट्र द्वारा गठित किये जाने वाले सतत् विकास संबंधी आयोग की संरचना और अधिदेश पर विचारों का आदान-प्रदान हुआ ।

Doubts on the East Coast Project's Environmental Impact

4100. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that serious doubts have been raised about the East Coast Road Project's environmental impact and economic viability;

(b) if so, what are the doubts raised; and

(c) what are Government's views on the issues involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Certain organisations and individuals have expressed concern about the adverse environmental and socio-economic impacts of the proposed coastal road;

(c) The State Government has constituted a committee to study the proposal and submit a report on the actual situation in the field. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report prepared by the State Government has been submitted recently to the Ministry for its consideration.

Environmental problems in Sardar Sarovar Project

4101. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the outstanding environmental problems in the Sardar Sarovar Project which have to be cleared;

(b) whether World Bank has given any deadline in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Sardar Sarovar and Narmada Sagar Project were accorded environmental clearance in June, 1987 stipulating that environmental management plans will be evolved and implemented pari-passu with the construction work.

The project authorities are presently formulating these plans on the basis of studies and surveys carried out.

(b) and (c) The World Bank has stipulated certain time frame for completion of various bench mark studies including preparation of environmental work plan and Narmada basin environmental management plan. The targets fixed by World Bank are being adhered to.

Kolleru Lake in Andhra Pradesh

4102. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that 'Kolleru Lake' in Andhra Pradesh is a water-fowl habitat;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that illegal encroachments of vast areas in this lake-bed have taken place;

(c) whether there is any proposal to conserve this wet-land; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) With a view to improve its conservation status, Kolleru lake is included under the Wetlands Programme funded by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. A portion of the lake has been also declared as a bird sanctuary. Financial assistance has been provided for the protection of water-fowl in Kolleru lake through strengthening of watch and ward patrolling, construction of watch towers, generating environment education and awareness and research aspects.

Hooghly Waters unfit for bathing

4103. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Hooghly waters unfit for bathing' which appeared in the Times of India dated 27th November, 1991;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what steps are being taken to clean this river.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The water quality of Ganga is being regularly monitored along 20 locations including 4 locations in West Bengal. The water of Ganga in West Bengal satisfies the criteria prescribed for bathing except in the case of foecal coliforms. Some heavy metals are present but at their concentrations they do not make water unfit for bathing.

(c) In West Bengal 110 schemes for abatement of pollution have been sanctioned out of which 77 have been completed. Except for a few schemes, the remaining schemes are expected to be completed in 1993-94, after which the water quality is expected to improve further.

Scheme to develop Forest on Bald Hills and Canal Bank

4104. SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRIMATI ILA PANDA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop Forest on Bald Hills and